

Southern Area Coordination Center Morning Report

Friday, April 28, 2006

9:45 a.m.

Southern Area
Preparedness Level: 2

Southern Area Current Situation

National Preparedness Level: 2

Compact Status: Both the Southeastern and South Central Compacts are open.

Initial Attack Activity*

Initial attack activity reported yesterday included:
20 fires for 605 acres on State lands in FL and NC;
2 fires for 1 acre on USFS lands in FL and GA;
Total: 22 fires for 606 acres.

* For specific information on fire activity (numbers of new wildland or prescribed fires and year-to-date totals by state/unit), please refer to the Southern Area [Summary](#) or [Detailed](#) Situation Reports.

Incident Information (as reported via ICS-209s)

Large incident¹ activity includes the following: (Newly reported fires are highlighted in blue.)

| Incident Name | Incident Number | Start Date | Size | % Ctn | IMT Assigned | Structures Destroyed to Date |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Six Pack | FL-BCP-06031 | 4/26/06 | 500 | NR | | |
| Garcon-Easter* | FL-FLS-2006-01-0567 | 4/16/06 | 506 | 95 | | |
| Steelfield Command | FL-FLS-2006-02-0475 | 4/10/06 | 814 | 100 | | |
| Acera | FL-FLS-2006-12-0347 | 4/21/06 | 850 | 70 | | |
| FL Sports Parks* | FL-FLS-2006-17-0237 | 4/17/06 | 846 | 95 | | |
| Corbett Trail | FL-FLS-2006-18-0191 | 4/22/06 | 1,200 | 10 | | |
| West Texas Initial Attack | TX-TXS-06013 | 3/1/06 | 4,898 | NR | TX Type 2, Rogers | |

*No updated information reported.

Six Pack – The passage of a cold front caused the fire to double in size yesterday as it spread to the east and south, making short runs through cypress, palmetto, and pine stands. Burnout operations continued through the night. An IMT (Custer) has been ordered. Several hunting camps are threatened by the fire and the remote location has made access difficult. Located 20 miles NE of Ochopee, FL.

Garcon-Easter – The fire is burning in swampy fuels. Firefighters continued to monitor the fire yesterday. Located in 5 miles S of Bagdad, FL (Santa Rosa County).

Acera – Sea breezes and low humidities are expected to pose some challenges today. Personnel continue to monitor the fire as it burns in palmetto, pines, and grasses. Located in Brevard County, FL, west of I-95.

FL Sports Parks – The fire is burning in southern rough (melaleuca), with heavy canopy fuels and a dense understory. Personnel continued monitoring along the fire lines and perimeter. Located on the eastern outskirts of Naples, FL.

Corbett Trail – Personnel continue to monitor the fire, burning in tall grass and southern rough. Containment is expected on 4/28. Located 4 miles S of Indiantown, FL.

West Texas Initial Attack (Rogers) – Lone Star State (TX) Type 2 IMT (Rogers) is located in Midland, TX, supporting local jurisdictions with management of initial attack operations over a 140 million acre area in central and west Texas. 1 new fire was reported yesterday for 10 acres. Since March 1, 2006, the Texas Forest Service has responded to 138 fires for 1,058,332 acres in the West Texas IA area, assisting the Volunteer Fire Departments with containment and control of wildland incidents.

¹ Large incidents are defined as fires which are 100+ acres in timber or 300+ acres in grass/brush, or incidents with a Type 1 or 2 IMT assigned. Incidents with structures damaged or destroyed are also included, regardless of size.

Prescribed Fire Activity

1 new prescribed fire was reported yesterday for 1,070 acres on FWS land in GA.

Remarks

FL-FIC - Wakulla Ranger District had one wildfire for a total of .29 acres. Okefenokee NWR conducted one prescribed burn today for a total of 1,070 acres.

FL-FLS - Dry conditions will continue through the southern portions of the state. The passing front over the northern regions of the state provided some relief in the dry fuel conditions. We have have 12 human new fires to report summing 595 acres.

RESOURCES *

Southern Area Resources Committed within the Southern Area

| Provider Agency | Aircraft | Crews | Equipment | Overhead |
|-----------------|----------|-------|-----------|----------|
| BIA | 0 | 4 | 12 | 1 |
| BLM | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| FWS | 1 | 0 | 6 | 10 |
| NPS | 0 | 0 | 2 | 20 |
| State | 0 | 0 | 112 | 118 |
| USFS | 6 | 2 | 59 | 318 |
| Blank/Other | 4 | 0 | 28 | 16 |
| Total | 11 | 6 | 220 | 483 |

Total Southern Area Resources Committed (all Geographic Areas)

| Provider Agency | Aircraft | Crews | Equipment | Overhead |
|-----------------|----------|-------|-----------|----------|
| BIA | 0 | 4 | 12 | 1 |
| BLM | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| FWS | 1 | 0 | 6 | 21 |
| NPS | 0 | 0 | 2 | 20 |
| State | 0 | 0 | 112 | 118 |
| USFS | 7 | 2 | 61 | 326 |
| Blank/Other | 4 | 0 | 28 | 16 |
| Total | 12 | 6 | 222 | 502 |

Total Southern Area and Other Geographic Area Resources Committed to SA

| Provider Agency | Aircraft | Crews | Equipment | Overhead |
|-----------------|----------|-------|-----------|----------|
| BIA | 0 | 5 | 13 | 8 |
| BLM | 1 | 0 | 4 | 16 |
| FWS | 1 | 0 | 7 | 16 |
| NPS | 0 | 0 | 2 | 31 |
| State | 0 | 0 | 115 | 123 |
| USFS | 12 | 4 | 86 | 466 |
| Blank/Other | 8 | 0 | 42 | 39 |
| Total | 22 | 9 | 269 | 699 |

* The Resource Ordering Status System (ROSS) reflects the above number of resources currently committed; however, the numbers may be slightly off if resources have not been released properly. The Overhead column only reflects individual overhead positions, not the total number of personnel assigned.

TEAM & HOTSHOT CREW INFORMATION

| | |
|--|--|
| Area Command Team <i>Through 1150 MDT on 5/8/06</i> | Loach (Southern) |
| Incident Management Teams -- National Rotation <i>Through 1300 MDT on 5/2/06</i> | Northern Rockies |
| Interagency Buying Team -- National Rotation <i>Through 1000 MDT on 5/4/06</i> | Southwest |
| Southern Area Incident Management Teams <i>Through 2400 EDT on 5/2/06</i> | Quesinberry (Blue) – Available Custer (Red) – Available |
| Asheville Hotshots (Asheville, NC) | Committed to FL-FNF-006001 |
| Augusta Hotshots (Augusta Springs, VA) | Committed to VA-GDR-006002 |
| Cherokee Hotshots (Unicoi, TN) | Unavailable |
| Jackson Hotshots (Jackson, MS) | Unavailable |



Click for today's Southern
Area Summary Situation
Report



Click for today's Southern
Area Detailed Situation Report

Links to Burn Ban Information:

[Arkansas Burn Ban Map](#) [Oklahoma Burn Ban Map](#) [Texas Burn Ban Map](#)
[Mississippi Burn Bans](#)

Daily Fire/All Hazards Weather Summary and Outlook

- 1. Red Flag Warnings:** Warnings are in effect for most of Florida for long durations of humidities less than 35%, along with increasingly strong, gusty winds from the east/northeast to 25 mph. Warnings are also in effect for far south Texas for strong and gusty southeast winds to 25 mph and ongoing 90 day+ essentially rain free drought conditions.
- 2. Fire Weather Watches:** Watches are posted for most of Florida on Saturday for continued minimum humidities less than 35% and strong/gusty winds at 25 to 30 mph.
- 3. Today's Overall Potential For Significant Management/Resource Activity:**
Above average for FL, with generally average conditions elsewhere.
- 4. Weather For Existing Significant, Uncontained Fires (>= 10 acres)/High Danger Areas:**

Florida

| Day | Area Weather | High Temperatures | Minimum Relative Humidity | Wind |
|-----|------------------------------|-------------------|--|-------------------|
| 1 | Partly Cloudy; thunderstorms | Near 90 | Mid 40% _s | SW to W to 18 mph |
| 2 | Mostly Sunny | Near 80 | Upper 30% _s to low 40% _s | N/NE to 18 mph |

5. Today's Fire/All Hazards Weather Summary and Outlook

Stormy and very wet conditions return west of the Mississippi River today ahead of another low and cold front currently near Oklahoma/north Texas. While most areas will see some chance for showers, thunderstorms, and some tornadoes (moderate to heavy 1-2"+ amounts from central Texas northeast to Tulsa), far west and south Texas will see little to no rain. For the eastern half of the Southern Area, mostly clear skies and cooler temperatures will dominate today, with lower humidities (30%^s). However, lower humidities (mid 20%^s) and gusty winds for Florida today and into the weekend will create very high fire danger and behavior conditions. This slower moving storm system will move into the MS River Valley area on Saturday, creating widespread moderate to heavy rain fall and severe weather. Overall, no change in the rather stormy weather pattern is expected for the South for the next 2-3 weeks, as a significant rain event will occur about every 7 days.

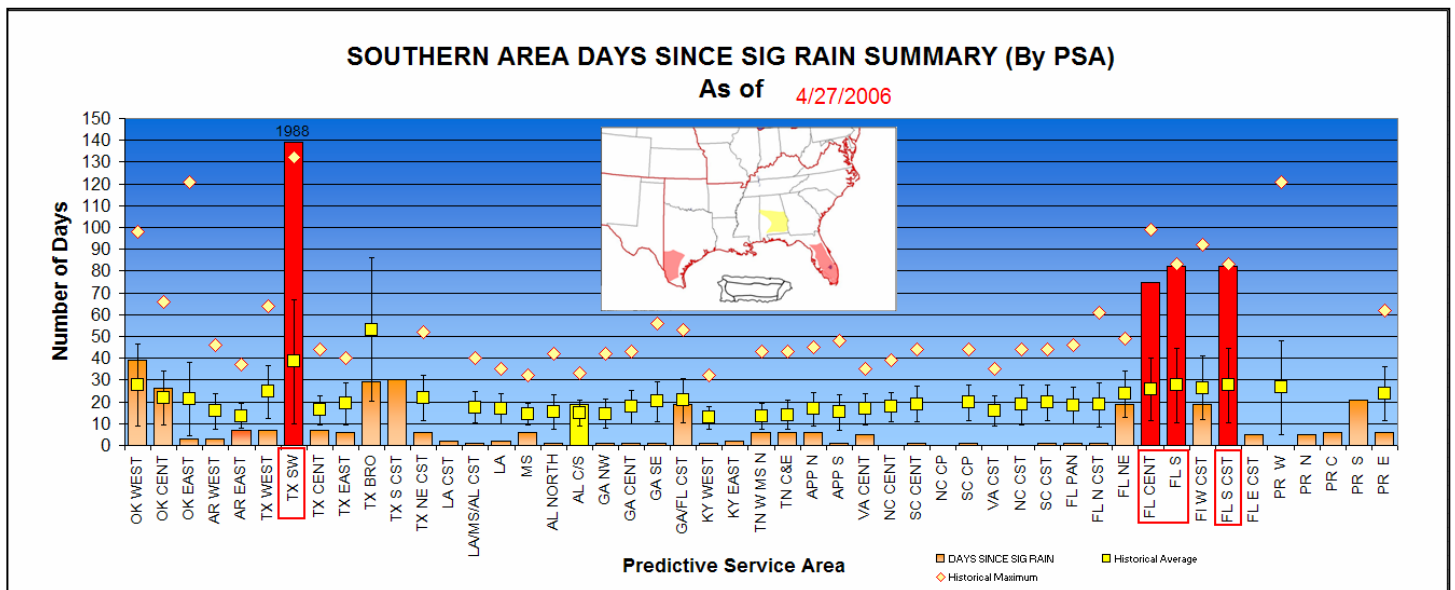
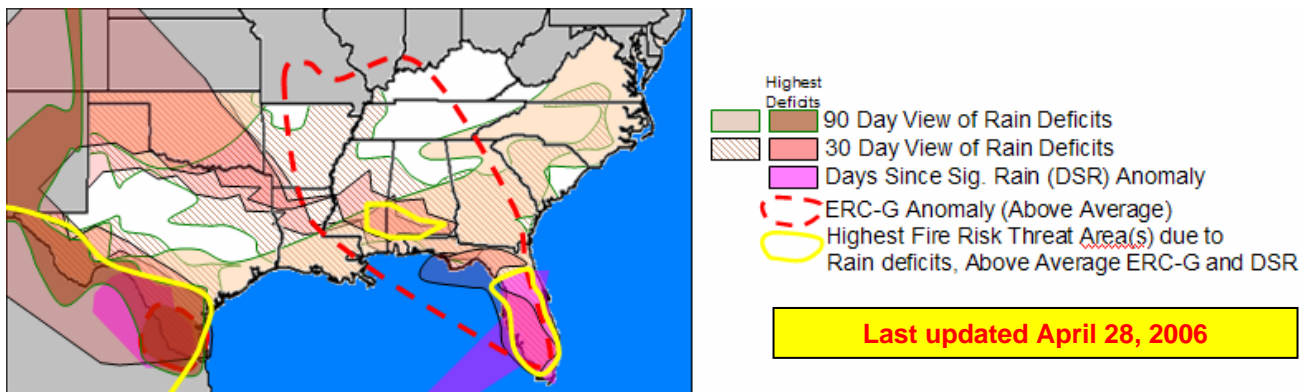
6. Tropical Weather Summary

No activity. With about 33 days before the official start of the 2006 Hurricane season, tropical Atlantic temperatures continue to run 1-1.5C above average. Most of the Caribbean Sea now has surface temperatures at the 80 degree threshold temperature, about 0.5 degrees C above average.

7. Fire Behavior

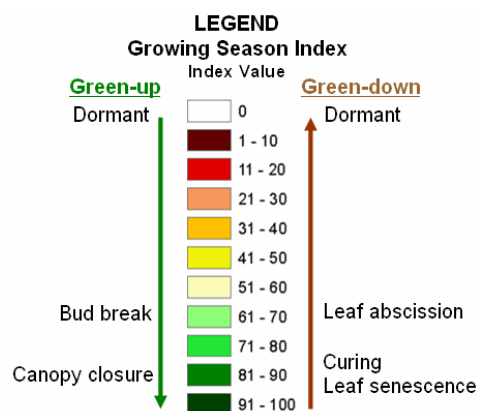
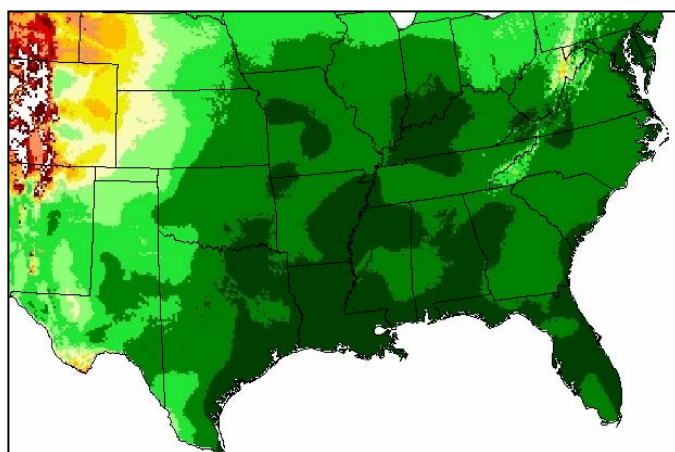
Product currently inactive.

8. Significant Fire Risk Factors, DSR Summaries and Regional Perspectives



Days Since Significant Rain Summary ($\geq 0.25"$). La Nina conditions currently present in the Pacific will result in a continuing pattern of below average rainfall for VA and the Carolinas, Florida, southern portions of the Gulf Coastal states, and of course western OK and TX. Consequently, fire activity continues to increase over Florida as we move through spring. In addition, much less than average rain fall in the Tennessee and Ohio River Valleys (and especially across VA and NC) will produce periods of higher fire danger as the fine and heavier fuels remain very dry. Green-up and higher water content will be the only mitigating factors. In our west, severe drought persists for OK, areas of AR, and across the western third of TX. Despite green-up here, much above average temperatures, recurring single digit afternoon humidities, and strong winds are keeping the time lag dead fuels extremely dry and very susceptible to ignition; no change in this pattern is expected through the year as fire danger/behavior will continue to wax and wane from moderate to extreme (record) levels.

Green-up Assessment. In general, green-up has moved significantly northward, into VA and the Northern Appalachians, due to the extremely warm temperatures of the last week. The experimental map below, available at <http://phenmon.org/maps/>, depicts the current Growing Season Index. Developed by Dr. Matt Jolly, the colorized index depicts where the interaction of thermal, hydrological, and solar parameters necessary for plant activity in general support (greens) or don't support (yellows and reds) cellular processes. The critical threshold for any vegetative activity is 50 (on a scale to 0 to 100). This map can be used as a *broad guide* in assessing the extent and level of green-up across the south.



Last updated April 28, 2006

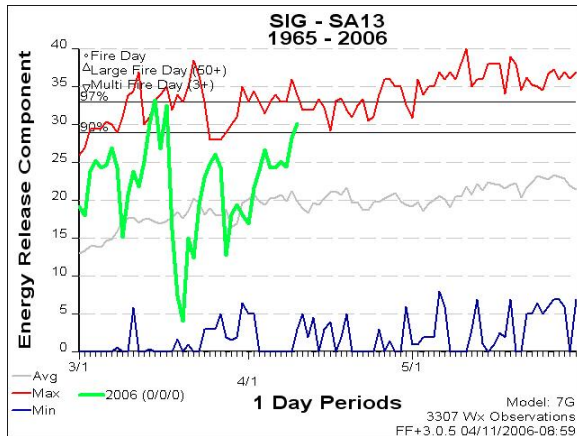
Regional Perspectives

OK/TX - The main 30/90 day deficit area remains over west Texas, the northern TX Panhandle, and along the Rio Grande areas. This is where fire danger will continue to spike at high levels due to recurring gusty south winds and lower humidity events. Areas of South and SW Texas now at or near the historical record for rain free days - about 130 days. No immediate change to the occasional windy/low RH conditions is seen for these areas. In fact, the drought condition is expected to wax and wane in some fashion through the year. A change to a wetter pattern over the next two weeks will minimize much of the effect of ongoing long term drought condition.

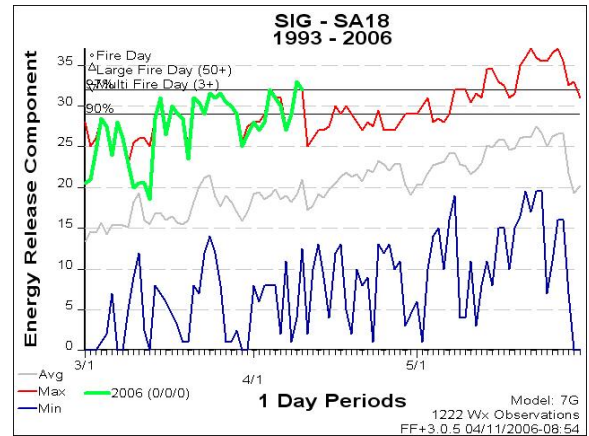
Mid-Atlantic - Significant 30 (2"-4") and 90 day (6"-7") deficits have developed across VA and NC, with green-up now in full force. While the recent rains and prospects for additional rain activity have had some impact on the 30 day deficits and fine fuel moistures, the 90 day deficits (heavy fuel moistures) have only been moderately impacted; drought added fuel loading will remain a key factor in the fire danger mix. Rain from the 2006 hurricane season (expected to be above average again) will ultimately be the recovery mechanism to the longer duration drought conditions.

The Central Gulf Coast and FL - Florida and areas of the central Gulf Coast are of special concern, as they continue to have anomalous drought conditions due to La Nina impacts. While recent rains across the central Gulf states (0.5" to 1"+) have provided some relief in fire danger and somewhat improved the short

term deficit situation, 90 day deficits remain in the 7" to 10"+ range and reflect a dry heavy fuel condition. Days Since Significant Rain counts across FL are generally nearing 85 days, nearing the record range of the 90 to 100 day historical maximums. Expect some areas to reach these record peaks by late spring. The short term and longer term deficits **are especially disconcerting, given this dry area encompasses the very heavy dead fuel loadings in the blow down areas from LA to FL from last year's hurricane activity.**



Louisiana



Coastal Mississippi


Extended Outlook Next Page

SOUTHERN AREA-WIDE WEATHER TRENDS SUMMARY

For the Period of April 28 to May 9, 2006
Issued April 28, 2006

The widespread warm, record setting temperatures and rain free weather conditions continue to wane and are being replaced by a cooler and more active rainy (severe weather) pattern as we transition into May.

SPECIFIC 10+ DAY TRENDS SUMMARY

 Light green color fill indicates the occurrence of a more significant precipitation event (coverage, duration, or amount), summertime unsettled period with widespread rainfall from area-wide afternoon shower/thunderstorms activity, or a period of higher humidities with widespread areas of intermittent precipitation (rain/snow) activity.

| Approx. Time Period | Red Flag Threat | <u>Significant Weather and General Trends Summary</u> |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Apr 28-30 Fri-Sun | FL | The recent unstable and stormy weather pattern will continue for much of the South. Persistent southerly and gusty wind flow off the Gulf will keep humidities elevated and fire danger reduced. Gusty winds are likely west of the MS River Valley on the 28 th , but with near daily chances for rain activity and elevated humidities, RED FLAG conditions not expected. Rain amounts will be similar to the last strong cold front: 0.25" to areas of soaking 1"+ rain fall. Areas likely to miss out on rain include Far west/south TX, areas of central and south FL, and the Mid Atlantic. |
| May 1-6 Mon-Sat | West TX | Another series of cold fronts will move through the Southeast, generating significant areas of showers and thunderstorms as they transition from west to east. On Monday, the front will be approaching northeast OK/north TX; mostly rain free conditions will give way to much more activity on Tuesday from TX northeast to the OH/TN Valleys. The rainy area will move to the Atlantic and southern Gulf states on Wednesday. Another cold front is expected to rapidly reinforce the original front, with more widespread rain activity breaking out late in the week and into Saturday. |
| May 7-9 Thurs-Sat | Interior FL | The reinforced cold front from the previous period will continue to produce stormy weather as it slowly moves through the South (cold front pushing into the OH Valley and the central Gulf Coast around Friday). A period of locally moderate to heavy rain fall is expected around Friday/Saturday, with 1"+ amounts likely. The outlook for rain in northern FL is good, but southern FL will remain mostly dry. |